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NEWS

2006 fall brown bear season on the Kenai Peninsula will not be opened

Soldotna – The brown bear registration hunt (RB 160) scheduled for October 15-31 in Game Management Units 7 and 15, will not open because the total human-caused mortality of brown bears is at the management limit. Human-caused mortality include defense of life and property kills, automobile collisions, illegally taken brown bears, and hunter kills.

The Department manages harvest so the 3-year average of human-caused mortalities does not exceed 20 total bears, nor exceed 8 female bears older than 1 year. The current 3-year average (2004 through September 13, 2006) for human-caused mortalities of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula is 7 females older than 1 year and 19 total bears. The total number of brown bears reported killed in 2006 is 23 bears including 8 females older than 1 year. If we allowed a hunt under the current registration system, we would exceed the current management objectives. Therefore, the fall 2006 brown bear hunting season will be closed by emergency order.

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